determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

activating a virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects; and

activating the requested object of the group in the virtual machine such that at least one other object of the group remains inactive.

55.   The method of claim 54, wherein the step of determining whether the requested object is active further includes the step of:

accessing the requested object when it is determined to be active.

56.   The method of claim 54, further including the steps of:

receiving a request to access the at least one inactive object in the group; and

activating the requested inactive object of the group in the virtual machine.

57.   The method of claim 54, wherein the virtual machine is a Java virtual machine.

58.   A method in a data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising:

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects in the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

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determining whether a virtual machine is associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive; and

activating the requested object in the virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it is determined that there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects.

59.   The method of claim 58, further including the step of:

accessing the activated object.

60.   The method of claim 58, wherein the virtual machine is a Java virtual machine.

61.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects of the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

activating a virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects; and

activating the requested object of the group in the virtual machine such that at least one other object of the group remains inactive.

62.   The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the step of determining whether the requested object is active further includes the step of:

accessing the requested object when it is determined to be active.

63.   The computer-readable medium of claim 61, further including the steps of:

receiving a request to access the at least one inactive object in the group; and

activating the requested inactive object of the group in the virtual machine.

64.   The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the virtual machine is a Java virtual machine.

65.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects in the group of objects;

determining whether the requested object is active;

determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

activating the requested object in the virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it is determined that there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects.

66.   The method of claim 65, further including the step of:

accessing the activated object.

67.   A distributed system comprising:

a first computer comprising:

a memory containing a process; and

a processor for running the process; and

a second computer comprising:

a memory containing a group of associated objects and containing an object

activator that receives a request from the process to access a requested object of the group of

objects, the determines whether the requested object is active, that determines whether a virtual

machine is associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested

object is inactive, that activates a virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined

that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects, and that activates the

requested object of the group in the virtual machine such that at least one other object in the

group remains inactive; and

a processor for running the virtual machine.

68.   A distributed system comprising:

a first computer comprising:

a memory containing a process; and

a processor for running the process; and

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a second computer comprising:

a memory containing a group of associated objects and containing a virtual machine associated with the group of objects and containing an object activator that receives a request from the process to access a requested object of the group of objects, that determines whether the requested object is active, locates the virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive, and that activates the requested object in the virtual machine for the group of objects; and

a processor for running the virtual machine.

69.   A method in a data processing system having a group of associated objects, the method comprising:

means for receiving from a remote source a request to access one of the objects of the group of objects;

means for determining whether the requested object is active;

means for determining whether there is a virtual machine associated with the group of objects when it has been determined that the requested object is inactive;

means for activating a virtual machine for the group of objects when it is determined that there is no virtual machine associated with the group of objects; and

means for activating the requested object of the group in the virtual machine such that at least one other object of the group remains inactive.